

MAY 10, 1982 - 10:00 A.M.
EF-100 CAPITOL

DAY OF FASTING FOR SOVIET DISSENTS

WE ARE HERE TODAY TO CALL ATTENTION TO THE ANGUISH AND SUFFERING OF FOUR PEOPLE WHO WANT ONLY TO BE TOGETHER WITH THEIR HUSBANDS AND WIVES AND TO LIVE IN A FREE COUNTRY. THESE FOUR -- TATYANA LOZANSKY, TATIANA AZURE, YURI BALOVLENKOV, AND IOSIF KIBLITSKY, HAVE REPEATEDLY APPLIED TO THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT FOR EXIT VISAS. AND REPEATEDLY, THEY HAVE BEEN TURNED DOWN.

THESE FOUR HAVE BEEN DRIVEN TO SUCH DESPERATION THAT TODAY THEY ARE BEGINNING A HUNGER STRIKE WHICH THEY HAVE SAID WILL CONTINUE UNTIL THEY ARE RELEASED. I TRUST THEIR GOVERNMENT IS NOT INDIFFERENT TO THEIR SUFFERING.

I CAN ASSURE YOU WE ARE NOT INDIFFERENT HERE - FAR FROM IT. TO SHOW OUR SUPPORT AND SYMPATHY, AND TO SHOW THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT HOW SERIOUS WE ARE ABOUT THAT SUPPORT, TODAY I WILL JOIN WITH SENATORS LEVIN, JEPSEN, AND MOYNIHAN IN INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION URGING THE SOVIETS TO RELEASE THESE FOUR AND MRS. LOZANSKY'S DAUGHTER. I TRUST MY COLLEAGUES WILL ACT SWIFTLY TO PASS THIS RESOLUTION. IT IS ONE SMALL WAY WE CAN HOLD OUT A CANDLE OF HOPE TO THESE AND OTHERS WHO WISH TO REJOIN THEIR FAMILIES.

THE HUMAN TOLL OF FAMILY SEPARATIONS IS HIGH. MRS. LOZANSKY'S DAUGHTER HAS NOT SEEN HER FATHER IN TEN YEARS. MR. BALOVLENKOV AND MR. KIBLITSKY HAVE NEVER SEEN THEIR YOUNG CHILDREN. SADLY, THERE

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ARE NUMEROUS SUCH CASES IN THE SOVIET UNION. AND THE IRON CURTAIN IS NOT LIFTING. IF ANYTHING, IT IS FALLING. SINCE LATE 1979, EMIGRATION FROM THE SOVIET UNION HAS DRASTICALLY REDUCED, A CASUALTY OF THE END OF DETENTE PRECIPITATED BY THE INVASION OF AFGHANISTAN AND THE INVOCATION OF MARTIAL LAW IN POLAND.

PRESIDENT REAGAN HAS EMBARKED ON A BOLD INITIATIVE FOR MEANINGFUL ARMS CONTROL. AND YET PEACE AND DETENTE MEAN MORE THAN JUST ARMS CONTROL. THEY MEAN ABIDING BY INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS IN GOOD FAITH. UNLESS AND UNTIL THIS HAPPENS, THEY ARE ONLY EMPTY WORDS.

AS CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE HELSINKI COMMISSION, I AM WELL AWARE OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE HELSINKI ACCORDS. THEY STATE THAT GOVERNMENTS MUST "DEAL IN A POSITIVE AND HUMANITARIAN SPIRIT" WITH APPLICATIONS FOR FAMILY REUNIFICATION. YET THERE HAS BEEN NOTHING "POSITIVE" NOR "HUMANITARIAN" IN THE WAY THESE FOUR FAMILIES HAVE BEEN TREATED, ALTHOUGH THESE CASES CLEARLY COME UNDER THIS PROVISION.

WE MUST MAKE SURE THAT THE SOVIETS HOLD TRUE TO THE SPIRIT OF HELSINKI AND RELEASE THESE PEOPLE.

MRS. LOZANSKY'S HUSBAND, DR. ED LOZANSKY, IS HERE TODAY, AS IS MR. BALOVLENKOV'S WIFE, ELENA. TO THEM, I EXTEND MY PERSONAL CONCERNS. I WILL DO ANYTHING I CAN TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT THEIR LOVED ONES MAY SOON JOIN THEM IN AMERICA. I HOPE THAT, IN THE NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE, WE CAN ALL BE TOGETHER TO CELEBRATE THEIR RELEASE.